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ORACLE IG



ORACLE

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NEWSLETTER NO. 16

May/June, 1988

Editorial

Hi gang, no moaning this quarter. (What do you mean, makes a change). I'm in a good mood. I've finally got my sticky little paws on some Man From U.N.C.L.E. episodes & Sapphire and Steel, and to top it all I've done the impossible.....I've got tickets to see 'Phantom Of The Opera!!!' ((And I've now seen 'Aliens'. Those SheRebs that have seen it, see if you can spot Brodie - HB))

Anyway, we actually had contributions this time around, and we didn't have to threaten anyone to get them.....well, hardly anyone. Now, all you have to do is keep it up.

Byeeee!

F.B.

Presidents Bits

Firstly, the result of the polls. 5% voted for 3N/Ls @ £4, 23% voted for 4N/Ls duplicated @ £4, 26% voted for 4N/LS photocopied @ £5.50, and 5% voted for 4N/Ls photocopied @ £5 plus p&p. The other 41% who didn't vote - if you haven't got what you wanted, you should have spoken up.

So the photocopying won. GOOD NEWS!!! I've found someone who can do the N/Ls £6. cheaper than I was getting them done before. BAD NEWS I still need to raise the membership fee. GOOD NEWS it'll only be going up by £1. per year. The New Membership fee is now £5.00 per year. If anyone out there feels unable to pay this amount in one go, please contact me. I'd rather work out 'easy term' payments than lose members okay?

SheReb - those that have already paid for the SheReb N/L will find it enclosed. Those of you in the SheRebs that haven't already paid for the N/L, shame on you. The price to you now is £1.30 plus 20p p&p. (I don't charge p&p if I get payment in time to enclose it with this N/L)

Those of you that do not belong to the SheReb but would still like a copy of the SheReb news-sheet, please note: The N/L will be priced at £1.50 plus 20p p&p to non-SheReb members. If you wish to be notified when the next SheReb N/L is available, remember to send an S.A.E. marked 'SheRebs.' Cheques and P.O.s made payable to Susan J. King available at the club address.

Please Note - only a limited number of SheReb newsletters are available, so if you want one, write soon!

Next N/L ORACLE will be celebrating four years in fandom. If you want to say anything about the club, the committee or the N/Ls we'll print it next time (only keep it clean).

A SECOND BEGINNING is now available, price £3.00 inc p&p (50p from each zine will be donated to the BBCs Children In Need Appeal). 40+ pages. Cheques made out to Susan J. King, available from the club address.

The Rebels Rebels next time will be Zen, Orac and Slave. After this we will be asking for ideas to fill this vacancy in the N/L. All clean suggestions will be considered.

Anyhow, gotta go. Enjoy the N/Ls.

Articles etc in for the next N/L by July, 25th, 1988

H.B.

Artwork: Front Cover by Fliss Davies
Rebel's Rebel by Rosemary Woodhouse

Your renewal is due if a cross appears here.....Yearly membership fee is £5.00 (£7.50 overseas) plus 4 self addressed sticky labels (Could I please have these labels from everyone - they are very important). Please make cheques/PO/IMOs etc payable to Susan J. King. PLEASE NOTE: No IRCs or Foreign Cheques will be accepted for membership payments. If sending U.S. CASH Please enclose \$15 (this fee includes the increase in membership and the bank charges we incur when changing to sterling).

TALK RIGHT BACK

First a word from one of our honorary members:-

Janet Darrow

Thank you for 'Oracle' which will, as always, provide a good read. Not that Paul will have a moment to even glance at his mail, as he's playing 'Elvis' in the musical 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' at the Queens Theatre, Hornchurch until April 2nd and then from May 16th - Oct 1st embarks on a National Tour.

It has been a tremendous challenge, and though a physically and emotionally draining role - he's loving it as 'Elvis' was a boyhood hero of us both.

I don't know if you are aware of the fact that Geoffrey Burridge died at the end of last year of Aids? ((Yes, we were. It was a great shock and we'll all miss him - HB)) I worked with him in Harrogate years ago and he wasn't only a gifted actor but an extremely nice person. We were both saddened by his death at such an early age.

Paul's book will be published by Civadre Press (a division of Lyle Stuart) at 120 Enterprise Ave., Secaucus, New Jersey 07094, USA. He signed the contract a month ago ((Two months as we print this - HB)), and as I know a number of English fans have written begging for it to be distributed in the U.K. I hope they will take notice. I imagine it will be out towards the end of the year.

I am about to start a T.V. role for the B.B.C., an episode of the How Autumn serial 'Artwork' ((I hope that's right, the writing was a little hard to read at this point - HB)). For the first time for ages, I'm in modern dress - a lovely change from all the period costumes and wigs.

If you wish, I will let you know the tour dates of 'Are You Lonesome Tonight' as soon as I have them.

With best wishes to all at Oracle.

- Thanks for all the news, and if you lot want that book over here too better wax lyrical and write to the publishers now! -

Jacqui Topp

Dear Sue/Jane (and anyone else I've not mentioned!)
((Tell me, is there a conspiracy going on behind my back? Everyone keeps calling me Sue.....sob, sniffle - HB))

Just a few lines to say how much I've enjoyed news letter 15 - talk about a packed issue, I never knew there was so much in it! (Sorry - wrong 'zine) ((?))

After my first 3 newsletters I think my brain has now adjusted to the Oracle way of thinking - basically mentally unstable with a few flashes of insanity thrown in for good measure - a bit like a Series 4 Avon on a good day! (I don't really mean that, honest.

I'm actually an Avon fan!). One side-affect seems to be that I'm no longer able to write a letter without numerous pairs of brackets littering the page. (See what I mean!) ((Don't have that problem myself! - HB))

I think the turning point came with the latest newsletter. I was just recovering from 'E Plecant Story' by Paul Blaker in newsletter 14 when I was confronted with 'A Silly Story' by Clare Nicholson (Who says they're all safely locked away?) ((You are just going to love Clare's latest achievement herewith enclosed. Save me from this madness! - HB))

I've enclosed my voting slip regarding the format that the newsletter should take in the future, and also an order for a copy of 'A Second Beginning' ((Now available folk! - HB)) once its been produced.

Anyway, thanks for three great newsletters, and I look forward to N/L 16 and 'A Second Beginning'.

Sue Glasgow

Hi Susan and Jane ((Someone got my name right! Whoopee!! - HB))

How are you doing? ((Fine)) Everything is fine down here, except that I just had my tonsils taken out and am still recuperating. I'm a little foggy at times, but I want to clear up some letters that are due. ((Best time to write letters, I find - HB))

I got the last issue of the newsletter just fine. I remember one of you wrote to me stating that the latest issue of Oracle was ready (for \$5) ((That's Voice Of Oracle - the zine not the N/L - HB)) and that there was some misunderstanding about what I'd said in the last letter. I said I liked something 'quite a bit' I think the phrase was, and one of you thought that I meant that I didn't like part of the newsletter. I'm at a loss about this. ((Me too now - HB)) I like the newsletter; the only thing I'm not wild about is the listings about where the actors have appeared on the T.V. This is not very useful for us in the U.S.A., but it would be arrogant and rude to say anything about it; I'm sure it is very helpful to fans in the U.K. Blake's 7 is a British show, with a lot of very loyal British fans; just because you may suddenly have lots of American fans on your lists, does not mean that you should cater to us - that'd be wrong. ((Actually I wrote to Sue and said that the listings would probably be more useful to our overseas members because they'll know what to look out for when/if the shows are exported there. The lists only tell us what we've managed to miss! - HB))

Anyway, I've lost your letter so I can't be more specific; I can't even remember which issue of Oracle I'm ordering - just the latest one.

Now, I had mentioned that I would write a review of DSV One when I could. Since I had said I might write a review of Scorpio and never got around to it (and feel bad about that), I'll get down to it right now. ((Review later in the N/L - HB))

- Would anyone out there object madly if we dropped the 'Rebels Exposed' section of the N/L? I ask this because it seems to be taking up more and more room - 8 pages last N/L - and if we're running tight on space I'd like to be able to use this space for articles from you, rather than from the radio and T.V. Times. What do you say? Do we keep it, or lose it? -

Rowena Sayer

Congratulations on a really bumper edition for the anniversary newsletter. Hm, the cat has decided to sit on my lap while I compose this LOC - not very helpful as he doesn't know a thing about B7. Just keep your paws off the keys puss!

Oh, thanks Jeff, but I'm afraid we're maybe going to bicker again as I've one or two points I want to pick up from your article concerning story writing. In order to preserve Susan's nerves, however, I'll put them under a separate heading and then she can either print them if she wants to or just enclose them with your N/L and then we can wrangle by letter behind her back! ((As its a reply to an article and not personal remarks, I'll print it - however, further discussion can take place behind my back if need be, okay? I don't know, two rebels on the same side who can't help snapping at one another.....they're beginning to sound like Brodie and Jeselle! - HB))

That's some sightings list Susan, but don't you think it might be a good idea if you credited some of the bracketed asides otherwise people might start worrying about your contributors! Or is it just me who reads mis-reads things?

As for that 'Starburst' article it was pretty appalling, esp. as they couldn't even be bothered to make sure they'd got the names right! Throughout the entire article they had confused Cally and Jenna, I mean, how can you confuse those two!? And they'd better not blame the word processor because that would only print out what it was given in the first place. Hence, their research was up the spout. Actually this is a common misconception about computers and word processors - they can not do everything, they can only do what the user has told it to do, therefore any errors are not its but the user's! ((I told my word processor at the G.C.F.A. to get knotted.... but it didn't! - HB))

Oh goody, discussion topics. (You have half an hour and are to cover at least two sides of A4 paper) - I jest Susan, honest. ((And as punishment any further comments are relegated to the 'Delayed Reaction' section of the N/L - HB))

DID YOU KNOW.....that since that door fell on him,
Gan has taken up politics.....

((This article is not a political statement....just a funny coincidence, so don't yell at me for pushing politics, okay? - HB))

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

ELECTION FOR BROMBOROUGH WARD
New Ferry, North Bromborough and Port Sunlight.

POLLING DAY:

THURSDAY 5th MAY 1988

**THE BROMBOROUGH AND
NEW FERRY LABOUR PARTY**

is pleased to announce that

COUNCILLOR

DAVID JACKSON

will be seeking re-election



PLEASE VOTE LABOUR



Please direct enquiries or offers of assistance
to Dave Jackson, Wallasey Town Hall or to his
agent - address published below.

.....
Published by Michael Vobe, 15 Stanley Road, New Ferry, &
Printed by the Bobington Unemployed Centre -
101 New Chester Road, New Ferry

Article supplied to us by our Club Secretary.....

Rebels Rebel....

I mean.....

Yet Another Bloody Fed....

Travis

A Federation Space Commander who's rank and service with the Federation go back to at least the first time Blake was involved with Earth based rebels. Has one eye missing and a false hand (later its a false arm, but I'm not sure it started that way), injuries sustained whilst he was massacring Blake's followers at an illegal underground meeting before Blake is brain washed. Injuries that are personally caused by Blake.

Unloved by rebels and fellow officers alike, Travis is determined to be Blake's death, but in the end is destroyed by Avon at Star One.

.. .. .

Travis

by Rowena Sayer

Hm, isn't that the gentleman with a black eyepatch and false hand with in-built gun who had facial plastic surgery between series one and two? It is? Oh well, what can I say about him?

Like Servalan he was obsessed, but in his case it was Blake because it was Blake who maimed him (I think). Revenge is a strong motive, but not always one that pays (something the rebels on Sheridan must bear in mind). (Actually there's a lovely quote about that somewhere in a RIPTIDE episode - I must try to find it sometime as its very relevant to B7). His whole motivation seems to have been revenge and this clouded his judgement on many occasions.

Actually this single mindedness made him a very bad choice by Servalan who with her own obsession with the rebels really needed someone who was uninvolved and clear minded to advise her. (How many times has one detective/PI told his partner that he's too personally involved with the case?) In other words to be efficient and effective then a certain degree of detachment is desirable. In real life it isn't always possible of course, but it seems strange that both Travis and Servalan got where they were under those circumstances.

Travis was lucky. More than once Blake could have killed him, but perhaps Blake had a better understanding about the nature of revenge than Travis. In the end it was Avon who killed him, not out of revenge, but because Avon was tired of Blake's indecision and Travis' dogged following of them. Travis was a nuisance, a pest, and as such, something to be eradicated and that is what Avon did - taking the burden of decision off Blake.

I preferred Travis I (maybe because I never actually saw him) but he seemed to be more positive than Travis II - perhaps the

script writers strike again! He should have been the same sort of character, although to be fair his obsession was eating away at him and so would have caused a deterioration in character, perhaps that would explain the difference.

Having his character around also helped in keeping the cohesion of the first two series. After his demise, even though Servalan was around, the series lost some of its cohesion and tended to be more single stories with little linking them. He was, therefore, a very important part of the first two series. But then, with Blake's disappearance, the whole concept of B7 changed anyway, and the Blake/Travis conflict became the Avon/Servalan conflict. If Blake went then Travis had to go too, because without Blake there would have been no reason for him carrying on with his revenge. Once the object of revenge is removed then life is empty and meaningless and this would have detracted from the third series and so Travis, rather than getting a desk job, was killed.

.. .. .

Travis - Sci-Fi's Answer To Admiral Nelson, Long John Silver
And Captain Hook

by H.B.

One eye, one arm and one....hell of a bad temper (that got you going, didn't it?). Travis, the mad man dressed in black leather - oh the fantasies you could have about his outfit alone (and the fantasies some of you do have!!)

I personally preferred Travis I. Stephen gave the character that certain feeling of evil. The voice alone carried enough malice to make the hairs on your legs rise. If he said he was going to kill you you'd believe that the process of death would take long painful hours until you told him what he needed to know or until your body could no longer stand the torment.

Travis II. I kept expecting him to be foaming at the mouth. This was Travis after his mind had finally snapped. The professional cool had gone to be replaced only by personal hatred. By this time he just wanted Blake dead and what affect this obsession had on his career was no-longer of interest to him. Brian's good at playing maniacs, isn't he?

Which ever Travis you liked, I'd rather not come across either in a dark back alley.

.. .. .

Collected And Rather Disjointed Thoughts On Travis

by Sue Cowley.

I like Travis. No, really, I do: he's a kind of good bad guy, in much the same way as Guy Of Gisborne is in RoS. You can feel something for him, even if he is set up in opposition to

our heroes, because he is continually shown coming off worst in his confrontations with his superiors, namely Servalan (or de Rainault in Gisburne's case) ((Gisburne!!!! - HB)) Compare that to the completely evil Darth Vader, who, until the 'Jedi' sequences is the one completely in control of the Dark Side....next to Vader, Travis is an angel. Travis is different too, because in the end he is himself a Federation outlaw, rather confusing the straightforward scenario of good vs evil, and eventually Travis is so obsessed with destroying Blake that he is prepared to eliminate the entire human population of the galaxy, by collaborating with the Andromedans. By STAR ONE Travis is one hell of a mixed-up crazy guy, but in many ways his character is far better developed and comes to a far more satisfactory end than any of the other central characters we lost along the way.

The development of Travis is, to me, as much an integral part of series 2 as the Central Control/Star One and Blake/Avon aspects are. The character even has TRIAL much to himself to highlight this. From when we first see him in WEAPON it is made clear that he is completely unbalanced - Carnell, a brilliant psychologist says as much. His driving ambition to kill Blake, coupled with the outcome of his trial, lead him to Docholli, and Freedom City. This is a turning point for Travis. It is when Blake denies him everything, and I think, pushes him right over the edge. Not only is Travis unable to kill Blake (because his arm isn't working) but Blake refuses to kill him, which, in a way, might have given Travis some sense of satisfaction - he would rather die by Blake's hand than at the hands of the Federation executioner - so that Blake killing Travis would indeed have been a 'mercy.' Additionally, Blake demeans Travis as an individual, and loses all interest in finishing him off once he is outside the Federation. This, above all, would have incensed Travis - its hard to be someones sworn enemy if they refuse to play ball and more or less ignore you. Given this development, Travis had to do something big to get Blake's attention. And he did.

Travis' last two stories show him in a new light. For once, in THE KEEPER, we see Travis get the better of Servalan, get lucky and outsmart Avon and Blake. For a mad man, he has his wits about him, and is bright enough to work out who has the brainprint AND escapes successfully in Servalan's ship, leaving her stranded on Goth (a pleasant thought!) And you have to admire the man's guts in STAR ONE. Okay, so he was off his rocker, but it was a bloody good plan, all the same.

It is right that Travis is killed off when he is. By STAR ONE there was no way to go but out, given that the Andromedans were going to lose (even if they'd won, he'd probably have been killed). Blake had already dismissed him as any kind of real threat to him personally, and given that Blake then disappears shortly afterwards there is never any place for Travis in Series 3, making it all the better that he is deliberately killed-off in STAR ONE. More than any other, Travis' demise is cleverly plotted and carried out, unhampered by situations external to the series (except for the change in actors midway....) which have otherwise led to cruelly abrupt exits, vague and fruitless speculation and a very nasty finale. Travis, luckily, escaped all of that.

I never really thought of Travis as a comic figure until I heard Servalan describe him to Krantor. Somehow, in the cold light of day, the words 'he has an artificial arm and an eye-patch' make me want to smirk everytime I hear them. After GAMBIT I thought for a while that I SHOULD find Travis funny, a rather camp stereotype with the eyepatch and the black leather and the deadly built-in laseron substituting nicely for the hook at the of his left arm. The only thing missing was the parrot - I began to think they should have borrowed the brilliant Polyphase Avatron from DW to sit on his shoulder. These feelings about Travis don't ever survive long, however. Once I start watching, I forget that Travis is a joke and get caught up in his character time and time again.....

.....which brings me cleverly onto my next point - to discuss Stephen and Brian. Firstly, they were both good enough to stop me choking with hysterical laughter everytime Travis appeared. Secondly, because the character was so carefully developed it was unfortunate from a continuity point of view that the actor playing Travis had to change. However, it does give us B7 fans something to argue about! Personally, I think they were both wonderful. I must admit though, that I didn't take to Travis II immediately. Stephen portrays Travis with far more instant evil and nastiness - theres something very sinister about his face (unless he's smiling, when he's lovely) - and he always plays an excellent baddie (I adored him in 'Citizen Smith' too, which helped). Brian, on the other hand, appears much more apparently cuddly and lovable, so it is credit to Brian that Travis II is believable too, I guess. Its the madness that he conveys that does it, so that despite appearances, and even though I'm a Travis fan, I wouldn't ever call him cuddly.....

Carnell was right - Travis was mad. He was also a cold-blooded murderer, and he had been Servalan's 'fall guy' for too long. In a way, he owed her for getting him re-instated as an officer, but he ended up paying for her favour for the rest of his life (well, until THE KEEPER). Actually, it was good thing he never did get to kill Blake before Avon shot him, because he would have discovered that, once the initial satisfaction wore off, his life was empty and without purpose. I suppose he might have vowed to see Servalan killed next, but I can't see him marrying a mutoid and settling down to have 2.4 little Traviss (or is that Travi?) somehow. Had he lived, he would have been a lonely man, which is a pity, as I'm sure, deep down, he just wanted to be loved.....

((Ah! - HB))

.. .. .

Travis

by Lianne Parkinson.

((On her letter she wrote 'Beware - there's a lot of stuff here and most of its weird'....who am I to argue? - HB))

Travis, wow what a hunk!!! Sorry, about that but Travis number 1 was mega gorgeous. Stephen Grief played his brilliantly.

I feel really sorry for him when he gets hurt. When he first appeared in Seek-Locate-Destroy, I was gob smacked. What a voice. At the end when Blake bashed his arm, I was really upset. Then he said, 'Launch the interceptors' and his voice cracked with despair, I felt so sorry for him. Another bit I like is in 'Orac' when Servalan gets attacked and Travis zaps it, then he goes to see what it was. Servalan says 'What was it?' Travis goes 'I dunno, some kind of lizard,' then he wrinkles up his nose and shakes his head like it was a nasty smell. That's my fave bit!

Oh dear, what a let down. Travis II. Yuk! He was WEIRD. He had absolutely no compassion whereas Travis I did have some feelings because when Mariot was killed he was upset. Travis II went mad. His voice was really creepy. What a way he went though, down a coloured whirlpool of nuclear generators (or whatever it was....) Anyway, I missed him even though I did not like him. I've just got one thing to say - COME BACK TRAVIS ALL IS FORGIVEN. I'LL BE YOUR RIGHT (NO SORRY) LEFT HAND WOMAN ANY TIME.

Rebels Review

Ouch!

by H.B.

Starburst 114

I'll try to keep this as fair as possible.....only the B7 article in this magazine was total trash. They couldn't even get the cha-acters right!!!!

Front cover announced 'Blake's 7 Birthday Celebration' (this is not a typo, it's a direct quote. Maybe I should send Jan and/or Rowena to help them with their proof reading!) Perhaps I should have noted this as a warning of things to come.

Page 40:- The article was entitled 'Rebel Without A Cause', Feature by Alec Charles. I wonder if the man actually ever watched the show? Surely Blake's cause was a fight to free people from Federation rule, but maybe I missed something along the way which indicated that this wasn't his cause, he was just pretending. Alec Charles seemed to think so.

He couldn't even get factual things right. Firstly, the illos. We have on the first page of the article, top right, a picture of Vila, Jenna, Blake, Avon, Cally and Gan which has been captioned:- Vila, Cally, Blake, Avon, Jenna and Gan. Easy mistake, you think, they just labelled it wrong. First page, bottom left, we have a picture of Jenna, Gan and Blake captioned as Cally, Gan and Blake. You begin to wonder if he thinks Sally played Cally. Page 3 of the article is Avon and Jenna labelled Avon and Cally. Now you begin to think Alec's thick enough to think Sally is Jan. The 2nd page picture is nice.... it's not captioned at all.

Now the text. Quote: 'The Web, the show introduced a strange little race of half-machines dwarf-slaves known as Decimas....' (sic). Firstly, as we know and he obviously doesn't, they're Decimas, secondly they were genetically engineered, not machines. In my dictionary genetics is listed as 'study of heredity and variation in animals and plants.' So if you use logic 'genetic engineering' suggests that you interfere with the heredity and/or variation in some biological fashion.....you don't make the animal into a wind-up toy!!!!

Text again. Quote: '.....Jan Chappell's Cathy.....' (sic) He knows the actress even if he's not sure of the character.... or perhaps he thinks this is Gone With The Wind not B7!

He also contradicts himself throughout the article with lines such as '....Blake to liberate humanity.....' and next paragraph 'His great revolutionary purpose is less to liberate more to destroy.'

And of Avon's relationship with Blake: 'While Blake's fight had for the most part been conducted with arch-enemy Travis, Avon's struggle seemed primarily directed against the memory of BlakeAvon, as he once said himself, wanted only to be free of Blake.' Next paragraph however, dearest Alec announces '...when Avon's obsessive search for Blake.....'

The line that really annoyed me in this was supposed to indicate Avon's hatred for Blake. He talks of Terminal: '...concludes in matriachal President Servalan's announcement of Blake's death that Avon allows himself the closing indulgence of a really broad grin.' Unfortunately, nothing there indicates that the grin happened quite sometime after the announcement, when, infact, he sees Liberator with - he suspects - Servalan on board blow up. I don't remember a grin at the announcement of Blake's death.

Really, I've only picked out the best bits. These quotes taken out of context actually make the article sound far better than it actually was. Don't buy it for yourself, borrow someone else's then do what I did - tell them what Alec should be doing for a living.

((They printed two letters about this article - one was complaining about its layout and the other wanted to know why B7 wasn't featured on the front cover. Oh boy, they really are hard on themselves printing such criticism. I wonder what they did with my letter!? - HB))

Starlog 128

This is primarily an American S.F. Magazine. B7 is British, so how come our magazines produce the tripe as is typified in the Starburst article earlier reported? I'm planning to write to Starlog to show them the rubbish our presses produce.

Page 32 - Entitled 'The Book Of Avon.' We have a little 'announcement' - That Dirty Harry of outer space, Paul Darrow, takes pen in hand to chronicle novel exploits for his Blake's 7 hero. Mind you, the article is written by two women so maybe thats

why its so much better.....just kidding guys, honestly!

This is an article featuring Paul's book without giving anything away about it. I suggest you buy it and read it because I can't really sum it up. All I will say is I prefer the first title 'Avon, The Distorted Image' to the second title 'Avon: A Terrible Aspect,' even if the latter is a quote from Shakespeare's Henry V.

Its an interesting article with a lot of input from Paul, and its written by two journalists not an amateur psychiatrist as is the Starburst article.

.. .. .

Elydore

By Rowena Sayer.

I'd love to say I got up at the crack of dawn on Good Friday, it sounds so romantic and dedicated, but I didn't. I surfaced at the more respectable time of 8.30 (well, I had been excavating the garden the day before - you think I'm joking?) and proceeded to pack my case. I was spending the weekend as a Galactican, and I make no apologies for that as it's the only costume I have. By 2.30 I'd picked my friend Karen up from Hackney and we were on our way along surprisingly empty roads. After a little detour between Hampton court and Shepperton (what do you mean I got lost?) we arrived at the hotel, booked in and then registered for the con.

For anyone who hasn't had the pleasure of spending some time at the Shepperton Moat House it's a lovely hotel set in beautiful grounds. ((Did anyone spot it recently when it appeared in an episode of 'Don't Wait Up? - F.B.)) The staff are courteous and helpful, and quite happily accept conventiongoers and their rather weird costumes and hair-dos. The barman was even heard to say that he liked it when we all came because it stopped the weekend from being boring.

Friday night saw the Feast Of Fools which I didn't attend but which was apparently very good. The idea was to tell tall stories and the eventual winner was crowned King of Fools - this accolade went to Robin Hill which was no real surprise. The con proper started next day with Donna's usual speech of welcome and then followed the usual activities - dealers rooms for zines, photos, stickers, books etc; two video programmes (one films, the other TV programmes); and guest talks, all of which I managed to miss. The guests were Dick Mills (BBC sound department), Richard Carpenter (RoS), and the inimitable Matt Irvine (BBC visual affects), who at one point tried to involve a rather apathetic audience in a choral rendition of "Ducks' Ditty" (if you don't know about this don't ask).

Both the fancy dress and the fashion/Drama show were a vast improvement on last years. An excellent precis of "Gormenghast" won best script - it was acted with incredible conviction - and there was an hilarious B7 sketch with Avon and Servalan married and living in "domestic bliss". Their offspring bore a resemblance to a certain eye-patched gentleman, and in the middle Blake appeared to try and persuade Avon to do a fifth series. It had me rolling

off my chair with all the in-jokes included.

Most of my steward duties saw me hiding behind the chair as the organisers seemed to have decided that it was to be a horror weekend for me. Yuk! I drew the line at 'Alien' however and took myself, and chair, outside the door, pausing only to inform the few bemused watchers that if there was a riot I would be back in but other than that I would leave them to it. The highlight of the video programme had to be the excellent "Star Trek: The Next Generation". ((Rowena, wash your mouth out! - F.B.)) Two episodes were shown, neither my personel favourites but still very good, and I've never seen a video room so full at a con - people were flowing out the door!

A new venture this year was a games room where people go to play role-playing games, and this seemed quite popular. There was also a Pangalactic Gargle Hunt round the grounds which I believe was also popular (I was in Kingston shopping at the time and so missed the sight). The disco Saturday night was also very enjoyable, although it meant a muzzy head for early steward duty the next day. The closing ceremony came all too soon and it was nice to see some new faces winning prizes - although I didn't note down who they were.

All in all it was a great weekend and all the people I spoke to seemed to have enjoyed it. The only fault with these things is that they are too short - but then I'm sure the hard working committee wouldn't want them any longer.

.. .. .

DSV One

By Sue Glasgow

DSV One lasted three very enjoyable days at the end of January in New Jersey. The guests were: Paul Darrow, Janet Lees Price, Michael Keating, Jan Chappel, Terry Nation and Sheelagh Wells. Everybody appeared to have a good time. The schedule of events was leisurely, but started quite early (9 and 10 a.m.) and sometimes lasting very late (the art auction didn't end until 3 a.m.). Unfortunately, Paul had injured his back picking up the luggage while on his way to DSV and it seemed to bother him for most of the convention, despite his fairly successful attempts in trying to hide it.

Friday started off with a photo and autograph session and then the opening ceremonies that featured a slide show that the guests gave lively comments about. Another highlight was the 10th anniversary party later on that night. They had a large cake on display and the guests there each said a few words. While Paul was talking, the microphone cord kept catching on the edge of the cake. By the time he handed the microphone over to Terry, there was a good 18 inches of cord covered with frosting. When Paul discovered what the audience was reacting too, he was embarrassed and tried to cover it up, without luck. Finally, Janet figured out what was going on and gave an expression like, You-see-what-happens-when-i-try-to-take-him-anywhere! And when it came time to cut the cake, there wasn't a knife in sight. So, all the guests took hold of the microphone cord and stretching it tight, cut the cake that way (and as there were no plates for that cake, we just scooped the cake up in glasses and ate it with our fingers. Not classy, but it was fun!).

Saturday had a couple of panels where you could ask the guests questions. Paul and Michael had a 'dramatic reading' section to their panel that was quite nice. There was a showing of 'Rumours of Death' with Paul in attendance for a discussion of it afterwards. They couldn't get the sound on for the first 10 or 15 minutes so Paul began narrating it ('you see how Avon always whirls around when they teleport down - you know why he does that? It's because I love to move like that!!') Later on, there was a banquet where 9 lucky fans were seated with each guest. The Art Auction followed, with most of the art show being auctioned off. The guests did all of the auctioning, with Paul staying for the whole thing. Prices were high; the most expensive item was the director's copy of 'Blake' with notations and polaroids - it went for \$2450! There was a poster of Avon that raised \$1000 for the club 'Avon', for a computer to handle the new influx of fans (it was a VERY NICE poster, I might add). ((If I auctioned my sister do you think we'd get enough for a WP for ORACLE? - HB))

Sunday had a liar's panel (where guests cannot answer any question truthfully) that was very funny; you can get a good appreciation of their fast wits and clever imaginations! When someone asked Jan what she missed most about her role on the Liberator, she got that familiar look, that glassy stare and stated she could hear something...voices talking to her. There was a second Liar's Panel and a Masquerade with the Closing Ceremonies (a couple of notable costumes were of Zeeona, and Anna Grant - as Avon remembered her - you know, satin sheet and pillow behind her head and a glass of wine in hand). And lastly, Sheelagh had brought the blooper reel and let it play until all had seen it. It ended the con on an 'up' note.

All in all, the con went smoothly and was a lot of fun, and I got to meet so many friendly, bright people, with their enthusiasm for the show so high.

No CROSSED WIRES this time, but we have a technical article for next N/L.....

Delayed Reaction

We have a very full section this time round, so without further ado it's over to:

Why Tarrant Is Servalan's Toy Boy by Fliss Davies

I have heard it said that 'Sand' would have been more convincing and more interesting if Servalan's romance had been with Avon instead of Tarrant. After all, Servalan and Avon have a special relationship, don't they? And why should she suddenly be interested in Tarrant out of the blue? Personally, I'm inclined to believe that there is more to it than just the influence of the sand, and I'm prepared to explain why.

Firstly, Servalan flirts with most attractive males she encounters. Carnell is a wonderful example of this. Also it is apparent from early in the series that she likes to surround herself with attractive young officers such as Rai in 'Seek-Locate-Destroy', the unnamed officer in 'Weapon' and Ginka in 'Children of Auron'. In

'Seek Locate Destroy' she objects to Travis's eye patch, saying she finds it 'displeasing', and he counters that he isn't one of her 'decorative staff men'. Tarrant is ideally suited to this 'Handsome young officer' role, and it is not unreasonable that she might find him attractive in this way.

But in terms of intelligence, maturity and ability, how can he compete with Avon? There are five episodes in which she sees the two of them together for a direct comparison. In the first of these, 'Harvest of Kairos' it is clear that Tarrant, not Avon, is regarded as being in command of the Liberator. Certainly Jarvik works on this assumption and is proven correct. Once Servalan boards the Liberator she can't gain control of Zen without the permission of what she refers to as 'Tarrant's' Crew. Tarrant refuses to help, and it is Avon who makes a deal with her which ends up with our heroes being stranded on Kairos and Servalan gaining the Liberator. Not a very wise move on his part, so Tarrant scores one point there. And although it is Avon who comes up with an idea to recapture the Liberator, Servalan can't know that it's Avon's idea. It is Tarrant that she sees confronting her and winning. Another point to Tarrant, from Servalan's point of view.

Similarly in 'Rumours of Death', Avon, his judgement clouded by emotion, is obviously not thinking as clearly as Tarrant. It is Tarrant who sees and understands Servalan's predicament and explains it to Avon. Another point to Tarrant.

In 'Children Of Auron' it has to be admitted that neither Tarrant nor Avon shows conspicuous intelligence, since they teleport straight into the middle of a plague, and straight into the middle of Servalan's trap. A no-score draw there.

'Terminal' is similar to 'Rumour Of Death' in that Avon is not thinking clearly enough to avoid walking into Servalan's trap. Tarrant, although unable to save the others, does realise when he's beaten, and gives in gracefully. Also when Avon is angry enough to try something stupid it is Tarrant who says 'Leave it, Avon', and Avon does. So although Servalan beats them both, Tarrant still shows better than Avon.

In 'Gold', Servalan is playing a game with Avon, knowing she can beat him, which she does. Tarrant complains that Avon should have told them it was Servalan, saying it would have made a difference. It's hard to say whether, given that knowledge, Tarrant could have avoided the trap, but certainly Avon doesn't show conspicuous intelligence on that occasion.

It's also worth beraing in mind what Servalan hears about Tarrant from other sources. In 'Moloch' she hears him described as a pilot who 'knows the lot', compared to her own inadequate pilot, and later says she should have realised it was Tarrant. This shows that she recognises his abilities. And it is interesting that in 'Assassin' when she thinks she has killed Avon and Tarrant; she expresses regret at both their deaths.

All in all, Tarrant compares very favourably with Avon, from what Servalan sees of them both. And since he does fit in with a 'type' she has shown a preference for in any case, perhaps it isn't so surprising that she should find him attractive.

Which leaves me with just one question - what on earth does he see in her?

.. .. .

In The Beginning

By Helen Parkinson

Late in 1977 newspapers and magazines that for months had been obsessed with 'Star Wars', started to talk about a new TV series, 'Blake's Seven'. At first it was vague hints and tentative cast lists calling it the magnificent Seven in the sky, the hero a sort of Robin Hood called Roj Blake.

It sounded interesting. I was 16 and had grown up with Dr who, Star Trek, Space 1999, and so on. Of these only Doctor Who and Star Trek held my attention. So at Christmas 1977 I was looking forward to seeing this new TV series, even if it wasn't any good it would at least keep me going until Star Trek was repeated (again). The christmas issue of the Radio Times was fascinating, story details and pictures of the crew, a certain member of which attracted my attention from start. The space ship, Liberator was stunning, unlike anything I had seen before. Blake's Seven was certainly going to have my attention.

Then 2.1.78 episode one. It was interesting, a fascinating glimpse into a future Earth, very dark and sad, but with a little thread of hope in the shape of Roj Blake. But I wasn't sure. For a start the cast member who had attracted my attention in the Radio Times photos wasn't in the first episode. However a certain thief who had appeared, had almost made up for this omission.

I watched episode one sitting on the floor surrounded by chemistry book, supposedly revising for my O levels, but certain things have to come first. As the final credits came up I found I had enjoyed the show but I wasn't hooked, yet. My father, who had watched with me until the point where Blake started shouting about how he couldn't remember woke up as the theme played. "I didn't think much of that." He said, (the man has no taste at all.) And no-one else was interested.

Then along came episode two and I was hooked. The moment a certain computer technician appeared, cool, cold, and wonderfully 'laid back' I was a fan. The episode was better than the first any way, livelier and we finally got to see that ship. By the end of episode two I knew that Blake's Seven was going to have my attention for a long time to come.

I watched fascinated as the series progressed and Blake collected his crew. The characters were wonderful. A freedom fighter with few memories of his past, but a remarkable ability to get people to do just what he wanted. A clever, witty man, gentle and loyal to his crew. A man who, thankfully, did not share Captain Kirk's unfortunate habit of falling in love at least every other week. A computer expert, gorgeous, brilliant, sarcastic and cold. Who argued with Blake all the time, but was still on his side (mostly). A female pilot, unusual in itself, who was even allowed to give hints of an unsavory past, and who was prepared to kill. An adorable thief who always played the fool, but never was, and a bear of a man, who could have been a fool

but wasn't, just gentle, compassionate and trusting. Finally Blake collected a telepath, fascinating in itself, who from the start was interested in Avon, and Avon who never seemed sure how to react. I was hooked.

The Liberator crew behaved like real people, they argued, they laughed, they even made mistakes, but best of all they were friends. The exchanges between Avon and Blake and between Avon and Vila held a fascination that no series (science fiction or otherwise) has since matched.

Blake's Seven made my revision bearable. So what if the education acts and corn law repeal kept getting mixed up in my history, it was Monday and I could go and watch Blake's Seven. Fifty minutes of pure, well fairly pure, escapism with a group of people who wouldn't give a damn if I couldn't explain the industrial revolution in 500 words or less.

By the end of *Duel* I discovered I preferred Blake's Seven to *Star Trek*. That Kerr Avon had replaced Mr. Spock in my affections and Roj Blake could be a better leader than J. T. Kirk and he didn't have any military backing. I looked forward each week to watching and listening to Avon and Vila arguing and I was transfixed by the grace with which Servalan moved, put me in heels and I invariably fall on my head (probably explains a lot).

The first series of Blake's Seven went out with a bang, but at least we knew it was coming back. Shortly afterwards I went to see *Star Wars* and I enjoyed it. However I found myself comparing their fight with Blake's and I realised I enjoyed Blake's more. *Star Wars* may have had the money for spectacular effects but it lacked characters, and you need interesting characters to get people's attention, Blake's Seven won hands down.

.. .. .

The other part of Helens article (which are taken from the assignments Susan set) follows:

My Favourite Blake's Seven Episode

This is difficult because almost every episode has some gem, a line, an expression something that I adore, but here goes.

If pressed to pick one episode from fifty two I would pick 'Sarcophagus'. I chose this episode because it is such a beautiful Avon Cally story but neglects none of the others.

Firstly it was written by Tanith Lee and I enjoy her writing very much, she certainly proved she knew the crew of the Liberator. The beginning is very unusual, for a moment you wonder if you're tuned to the right channel.

Avon and Cally's talk in her cabin indicates a caring that other writers only hinted at. Avon's understanding of her feelings is total and his attempt to make her feel better, no sentiment just common sense and a little laughter, is perfectly in character. Cally's gentle tap on Avon's chest and smile as she leaves shows he has succeeded and moments later on the flight deck we see he is no softer, no easier on her or the others.

Sarcophagus shows a gentler side to Avon, the side he hides. But it does not change him, he is still the same, hard suspicious, sarcastic to Cally as well as to the others. Cally is lonely, sad and very vulnerable, almost ready to die, at least until Avon is threatened. The final confrontation between Avon and the Alien is stunning. Avon is so....., well just Avon, totally devastating. The alien has no chance against this man. And Cally, Cally finally fights back to protect Avon, he relied on her, trusted her and was not wrong, what better display of their feelings.

Yet even though this episode is Avon and Cally's the others are not neglected. Vila is portrayed beautifully. The gentle court jester with a flair for magic. A man with a very high IQ who acts like an imbecile. The scenes with Vila in the court jesters outfit show him to be so gentle, so vulnerable, Vila needs looking after.

Neither is Tarrant ignored. He is inordinately suspicious of Cally and tries to pick a fight with Avon (have you ever see Avon look more dangerous than when he turned to Tarrant and said "Well now that's fascinating...") ((Yes, when he pulled a gun on Tarrant in Terminal - F.B.)) Tarrant finally shows some of that concern for fellow crew members he is always talking about. Upon finding Vila unconscious, or possibly dead, on the flight deck he tells the alien that her idea of superfluous and his might not be the same. His refusal to accept the aliens offer of a place by her side, although he obviously finds it tempting is encouraging, perhaps he does care. Although his baiting of Avon and his rather unfriendly behaviour towards Vila at the end of the episode show that Tarrant we all know is still alive and well (unfortunately, Ever wished Dayna had left them to fight it out?)

Dayna is perhaps the most neglected of the crew. We do have a glimpse into her spare time but little else. However it is obvious she cares.

That's it. Sarcophagus is my favourite episode and not just because Avon looks good in that outfit, actually that is one of my least favourites. I much prefer the outfit he wore in 'rumours' or 'Harvest of Kairos' or 'Ultraworld'. But it is a good episode for exploring relationships and feelings, and although it concentrates on just two of the crew the others are still there and behave, unfortunately in some cases, just as normal.

There that was difficult I hate picking my favourite episode because almost every episode has at least one wonderful moment.

Spacefall. Avon and Blake arguing on the London, you know "Wealth is the only reality....." Or Avon's expression when Blake returns to the flight deck after his altercation with Raiker.

Cygnus Alpha. Avon picking the next button for Jenna to press when they are trying to fathom the Liberator controls, and then running to hang onto the couch in case something nasty happens. Even better the sheepish grin on his face when absolutely nothing happens.

Time Squad. Vila's remarks to Avon about how he could have been a good pickpocket if he'd had the right upbringing.. Cally's reaction to Avon, talk about lust at first sight. (or maybe

that's just me).

The Web. Cally upsetting Avon by her interest in his work, Avon and Blake's faces after Avon saves Blake from the bomb. Blake's "I don't give a damn there's a friend of mine out there...." Avon's acceptance of Blake's lead on the planet and Blake's instant capitulation when the Auronar hurt Avon. Avon's disgust at his first sight of Saymon in his tank.

I could go on forever and probably would given the chance, ask Lianne. Suffice to say Sarcophagus may be my favourite episode, but I love most of the others too.

.. .. .

Firstly, we have an LOC from Fliss Davies (which Madam President forgot to put in the LOC section; stop laughing!) Then we have Fliss's answers to Susan's 'assignments'.

LOC - I enjoyed Jeff's article about writing, and I think what he's trying to do is very worthwhile, but I have one complaint. I found it a bit long and involved. Good grief, Jeff, most of my stories aren't as long as that article! I would have thought that anyone who found the prospect of writing a story daunting, would find it just as daunting after reading that. The most important thing, if you want to write, is to go ahead and write. You might not think it's very good, but it could still be something that no-one else has thought of, so it will interest others. And you don't need lots of complex themes and sub-plots. A simple story is fine, try a short scene to practise, and build up when you have more confidence.

I have to confess, as someone who has never been daunted by the prospect of writing (try and stopmel' Like my hero Blake, I never let lack of ability deter me from having a go!) I can't understand why more people don't write and contribute to N/LS. Everyone's viewpoint is valid, and everyone has something to say. Perhaps someone who has never contributed could please write in and tell me why not. You'll print it won't you, F.B., H.B.? ((Bet y' - HB))

((Before anyone gets confused, its me, I'm back. F.B. may have typed the last few pages, but the rest of the typos are gonna be all mine - H.B.))

Having said all that, I'll now have a go at the 'assignment' set at the end of the N/L.

1. Favourite role of any B7 actor. That is an incredibly tough question. Gareth Thomas is my favourite actor, not because he played my favourite character (it may be the other way round!) but because he is so brilliant at characterisation. If I really must choose, I think it will have to be the role of Fluellen in the English Shakespeare Company's 'Henry V'. He was so very funny, and with his thick Welsh accent I couldn't understand half of what he said, but it didn't matter at all.

2. When B7 first appeared on our screens, I wasn't watching it, I was probably out taking the dog for a walk. I didn't see it until the repeats of the 4th season, and I remember being very upset that my favourite programme (Alias Smith and Jones) had been taken off for this science fiction rubbish.

Then, since I was in the living room eating my tea anyway when it came on, I saw an episode (it may have been 'Power') and thought it was really quite good.

3. My favourite B7 episode? 'Pressure Point' ((Poor Gan! - HB)) 'Trial,' and 'Star One,' and I really don't think I can choose between them. They contain the highest drama, for me, the most dangerous and challenging situations for our heroes to face.

4. I haven't forgotten, I've done a Travis drawing for you, which I'll send when I've got a suitable envelope, and I'll probably send the article at the same time.

Phew! End of LOC

Oh yes, one more thing - the word you couldn't understand in my article on Seryalan was 'loses'. Does that make it all clear? ((Not right now, I'll have to look at it - HB)) Why didn't you ask me? I wouldn't have been offended! ((I know, but I probably didn't have the time to read it until it was about to be put into the N/L. Thus product would have been held up. Yes, you can blame me, I'm used to it - HB))

I also have one final suggestion. If Jeff's article about writing stirs up much response, perhaps it might be possible to form some kind of 'writer's workshop'. In the form of a N/L, participating members could send in their short stories (possibly under a pseudonym to save embarrassment) and others could then make helpful comments on them.

((The idea is a good one, and if someone else is going to be producing it - I have no more funds to stretch to any more inserts - I wouldn't mind enclosing it with N/Ls to anyone interested - HB))

.. .. .

The Word

by The Pres.

Okay, being's as I set the tasks, I'd better do them myself.

1. Well, I think Paul & Michael in 'Don't Start Without Me' has to be the highlight for me. Great show and the ad libs when things didn't go quite according to plan were fantastic. Hope they decide (or get a chance) to work together again soon. Would have loved to have seen Steven in West Side Story, but Troubles and Strife was terrific too.

For Gareth the highlight has to be Morgan's Boy. The last episode was so sad.

As for David Collings (Deva), his best roles are 'Monkey' in Monkey and Tai Tsung in 'Water Margin (though he do look cute as Poul in Dr. Who). Okay, so you only 'see' his voice in these two shows, but what a voice!!!!

2. Watching the other side (Coronation Street I believe) because the programme on BBC1 sounded like something written by Enid Blyton.....then I turned it over and caught the last 30 seconds or so:- Blake looking over his shoulder 'No, I'll be back.' Credits roll.....and I was hooked.

3. Rumours of Death because it gave us a whole new angle on Avon. Was he so cold after all? Was it the lost love that made him keep others at a distance?

Assassin - because Avon and Tarrant were themselves and not someone who just looked like them as they were for most of the 4th season.

Mission - firstly because of the quick one liners and Avon's attitude to Cally's complete trust in Blake, but also because of the murder mystery aspects of the episode.

Shadow - (squeaky boots, squeaky boots), okay so I admit its partly because Avon looks real cute in both costumes in this episode, but the idea that Orac - the all powerful machine - can be taken over by outside forces is not only very original but also very clever. Pity the restraint Avon implanted was so effective. It would have been interesting if the 'being' had been able to work a way around the block at a later stage of the series. Also Gambit from this season, simply for the comedy.

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Assignments

by Henry Eggleton

Below is my response to the assignments you set.

1. Paul Darrow: Dr. Who
Gareth Thomas: Who Pays The Ferryman
2. When Blake's 7 first appeared on our screens I was completing my final year at school. I remember though that I made a special point of watching this new series, as I was a firm fan of science fiction and had been interested by what I had seen on Swoop Shop a week or two before. So I badgered the rest of the family into turning down the lights and keeping quiet for the fifty minutes or so that it was on each week.
3. My favourite Blake's 7 episode, now that's a tough one. One of my favourites is Mission To Destiny as it brought to the fore Avon's deductive abilities, and showed that he could work as a team, at least with Cally. Another favourite is Countdown, because it was well written and was the first to give us an insight into Avon's background.
4. Travis: Loyal Federation officer prone to overzealousness or deranged psychopath? I believe that at the time of Blake's original encounter with Travis he was probably just about sane though due to his personality type and Federation training, he was exceptionally ruthless, but after his maiming by Blake he

gradually slipped over the edge into insanity. Though I believe that, what he stated in his trial could have some validity, in view of the type of officer the Federation produced.

Okay Susan, you can put away the whip now. (Ouch!)

((Drat, I was so enjoying it too. F.B., pass me the oil again - HB))

.. .. .

Assignments

by Lianne Parkinson

I think the best thing I have seen anyone from Blake's 7 in is Moondial and Jacqui Pearce. Her Miss Raven/Vole was superb, very like Servalan in certain aspects. The way she wore the black dresses was stunning. She is looking older but it is 7 years since I saw her properly. She has an amazing 'presence' which electrifies her appearance. The girl who played Minty was good but a bit wooden. The little girl who played Sarah was so pretty. It was very sad to see the way she was tormented by Miss Vole. The ending was superb when she looked in the mirror and it shattered....and so did she. An excellent series. I hope its repeated soon. ((I missed the last ep. Who shattered? Miss Vole or Sarah? - HB))

I can't quite remember what I was doing when B7 started because I was only 5, but I do remember watching it. ((5!!! Makes you feel old, dunnit? - HB)) Vila was my favourite character because the bits I remember were mostly about Vila. I certainly remember 'Blake'. I sat on my mum's bed stunned beyond belief. I took to my bed (and it nearly ruined my sister's Christmas). It was like someone had died and you knew you will never see them again - another episode I remember very well is Orbit but I'm not surprised, in ways it was worse than Blake.

Its surprising the number of my friends who are 15 and 16 who really remember Blake's 7. ((Do any of them want to join a fan club? Huh! Huh!? - HB)) I was surprised. I think if it were repeated more people my age would join fan clubs.

This is a tall order.....my favourite episode.....I like so many I don't think I have one, so I'll just pick one. ermm..... GAMBIT. Yes, I like Gambit. There's some brilliant Avon - Vila bits. I think the bit where Jenna and Cally fight is really funny. I wonder what flavour soup was that Avon spat every where? ((Ah, but was it soup!!!!? - HB)) Looked like farmhouse vegetable to me. Anyway, its a good episode. The bit near the beginning, conning Orac is brilliant. I think its my favourite episode. And the end when Blake and co. come back on board and Avon is pretending to be really innocent (not easy) then Orac pops back to normal size and the expressions on Avon and Vila's faces are superb. I would love to find out what happened next.

That episode is one of the best. Jaryere (the one with the scottish accent and the nose) Servalan's muscle man, is brilliant. He is an unusual choice for Servalan. A real change from the usual tall, blond haired, blue eyed type.

Servalan's dress is another point. I loved it, apart from the net. It was a gorgeous colour, just like blood. But it clashed with the yellow and purple of her suite. Apart from all this it was my favourite episode. ITS BRILLIANT.

.. .. .

Two articles from Rowena, which we'll do one after the other. The first is an answer to my 'assignments.'

Yes, I remember vividly what I was doing when B7 first appeared on our screens. The first programme was broadcast during the Christmas holidays and I sat and watched it with my family, thinking that here was something that was a bit different and that could prove to be very interesting - and I was hooked from that moment (and I hadn't even seen Avon!). We were probably doing something terribly uninteresting like having tea or something. The next week I was back at college and into rehearsing 'Fiddler On The Roof' - rehearsals were on Monday evenings at 7.30 - yep, B7 time! Boy was I annoyed. So while I rehearsed my friend, who wasn't particularly interested, dutifully sat and watched it for me and then, rehearsals over, I would dash off to her room and she would tell me all about what had happened. I learnt about the vast majority of the first series through this method which was rather unsatisfactory as I'm sure you'll agree, and which also explains why my memories of that series are exception-ally hazy.

Favourite episode? The one where Avon shoots Anna, whose title also escapes me (I'm very good with titles aren't I?) ((Rumours of Death - want me to resight the whole thing for you? - HB)) This is because it shows a different side to Avon. It shows that Avon is capable of love and does have a human side to him. I know he kills Anna in the end but what other choice did he have? And he did so with regret - and I want this episode on video, even if I never have any of the others! I also enjoyed 'Sand' (wow, I remembered a title - break out the champagne!) This is because it gave Tarrant a chance to show us his true character. The episode where his brother is killed does the same but 'Sand' is powerful because it is basically about two people, which is always powerful drama.

Anyway, keep up the excellent work and 'Rebels' seems to have got off to a good start though I'd like to point out that my character's surname is spelt Tayler and not Taylor as you printed - just a minor point. ((Beg pardon. I have a friend whose surname is Tailer, me confused, never! - HB)) The 'Kerr Avon' concoction looked lethal! ((I want to hear from all those that tried it and lived!!! - HB)) How many people actually tried it I wonder? Oh, and I loved Nicola's story 'Terminal' - very well thought out and executed. Must go and get on with the rest of the things I have to do for various N/Ls and then I can get it all printed off in one go. Bye!

Article Number Two from Rowena. I know it may seem a little unfair Jeff, but if you want to argue with her, please do it by letter.

A Reply To Jeff's Article

by Rowena Sayer

Firstly I would like to point out that my comments are not in any order of importance, but follow the order in which the comments are made in the article.

1) The Title - this leads people to think that you are going to come up with some really original ideas for stories which you don't. Of course no writer is going to give away his brilliant new idea but the ones suggested were rather run-of-the-mill and ordinary. ((I'm not sure this is fair, because how you interpret the title may not be the way another person does. It seems okay to me, if a bit corny - H.B.))

2) The dragon - this just happens to be one of my favourite creatures. Yes, I know no-one could possibly know that but I do get a little tired of people always picking on dragons, why don't they choose a cockroach or something (now I'll have all the cockroach lovers yelling at me). Just a personal beef that one. ((Hear! hear! I'm a dragonrider and agree totally - HB))

3) "Anybody is capable of providing enough good ideas" - I beg to differ. Some people are unable to do this. ((Again, I think most can come up with ideas, but a lot of them just can't get it down on paper because of a lack of technical skills - HB))

4) "Ideas.....can be created artificially" - agreed, but these are rarely as good as the inspired ones that hit you in the middle of Sainsburys. ((I get my best ideas in the bath-HB)) Ideas are stimulated by events witnessed, speech overheard, something spotted or something read, they are not produced by deep thought as such. Those type of ideas tend to be the theoretical type. If an idea needs to be created artificially then you are going to have problems. The successful story is based on an idea out of the blue which is then worked out logically.

5) "Imagination is thinking about possibilities" - this statement rules out completely the more important aspect of imagination which is the creative side. Anyone can sit and try to think about possibilities, but unless they have a creative streak to them then the possibilities are going to be very ordinary. The key word for imagination is creating not thinking. The two processes are very different. Thinking produces a creditable end product but its existence depends on the thinker; but creating lifts the end product onto a different plane, one where it exists independant of its creator. The simple fact is that many people do not have a developed imagination, and from my position as teacher it is quite clear that the next generation will have as many unimaginative people as this one does. Imagination is encouraged through play, stories, poems and conversation and not through TV programmes. It is only

by experiencing the former things that a writer can create stories about the latter. You may not need complete knowledge of the series but you do need a knowledge of people and many other things in order to make a story convincing and these are learnt more from the written word than from the visual. ((I think I'll argue that point. Maybe not visual as in TV, but visual as in real-life. You can learn more about people by watching them - ie in a playground, on a street corner - than you can by reading about them. When you read you only get the writers point of view about them, and that could be wrong - HB)) After all, since when did people stop in the middle of a play and give a complete run down of motive, that only occurs in books. The audience often has to glean motive from clues given and this assumes a wide experience of reading.

6) Starting ideas and characters - a good comprehensive list.

7) Character consistency - a very good point. Inconsistency has ruined many a good story.

8) Reading similar scenes - dangerous; 'ware plagiarism!

9) Omitted was the story that writes itself. I personally start off with an opening scene and from there many of my stories tend to write themselves and I have little control over what my characters want to say and do. This, of course, can lead to inconsistency and may end up with things that are completely illogical, but a re-read and an edit usually iron out the problems. If they don't then the story isn't right.

10) Finally I am going to finish off by saying that the premise that anyone can write is basically unsound. Sure anyone can string a load of words together (some people can't even do that) but unless there is a creative streak to that person then they will not be a good story writer, though perhaps an excellent text book writer. Words are words unless endowed with their own life, and only a creator can do that. After all there is a great deal of difference between 'Luke left the room' - bold statement of fact which most people could manage - and 'With a heavy heart Luke left the room' or 'Luke bounded from the room' or even 'Luke left the room as if he were walking on air' ((Or 'The laser bolt in the back of Luke's head knocked him from the room'...alright, so I had to bring gore into it, I blame the SheRebs! - HB)) - all of which give meaning to the fact. Perhaps this is a little contrived as the line is very obviously out of context but I hope it shows you what I'm getting at (and no I don't know who Luke is). ((Leia's brother of course! - HB)) I don't pretend to be a brilliant writer myself, and I'm sure I've got a lot to learn, but I think I understand what goes into story writing if only because with 6/7 year olds one of my tasks is to try and teach them to write stories, but without imagination and creativity it is very difficult, and it is soul destroying when you see the children who are never going to develop these very important traits, and that is why I say that not everyone is able to write. You can of course improve your writing but there needs to be something there in the first place on which to build.

'Bye Jeff!

Yet another misplaced letter of comment....where the devil was my head when I put this thing together? - HB

L.O.C.

by Jennifer Smith

There's not a lot I could do with an article on Travis (no rude comments please, Susan) ((Me! - HB)) as my tapes of the first series are still incomplete, and the second series in this household is non-existent - so I'm Brian Croucherless. And my memory isn't what it used to be.

How about a letter of general comment instead. That do you?

Firstly, you know my vote on the size and reproduction of the N/L. I prefer bigger print, my eyes are going the same way as my memory. But, I suppose if I get out-voted, such is life. And magnifying glasses aren't that expensive, surely. ((Is there anyone else out there that has trouble reading this because of the size of the print? If so, let me know and I'll try and work something out.- HB))

I'll try to look out for 'Why Don't You....' Fame at last, at least for the club, if not for you personally. If fortune should follow, will you remember me? Please?

Brian P. James - on the subject of Blake's 7 videos. I agree, at least on the pricing aspect. There can't be too many other TV show videos priced as high, and the BBC's comment on their reasons, or excuses, would be nice. Nice - but not very likely.

But as to the contents of the video, or lack thereof, I'm afraid I'm not qualified to comment, never having seen them. I'll just stick with the few I have got, thank you. ((I've seen the first one - episode one is cut down to fifteen minutes, as is episode two, episode three is a whole thirty or so minutes long, isn't that exciting! Whoopee! - HB))

Jeff - do you have an aversion to dragons? ((A fellow dragonrider here - HB)) I was quite upset at the deaths mentioned. Poor things. And - who was that masked man? The rest of your article was very interesting though, I even understood most of it.

Unfortunately, Peter the Pen, the same can't be said for. Although I don't doubt it too was very interesting, I'm afraid I was lost completely. It was way over my head (not difficult when you consider I'm only 5ft and-a-bit inches). I mean - I did try, but with biology being my only 'ology' - a scientist I am not. ((How many people don't like the technical side of this N/L? Come on, we can only change if you give us a few hints - HB))

Susan - you set assignments!? ((I do when I feel they're necessary. I'd rather get off the cuff articles from members, but the file was empty last time so I couldn't risk getting nothing - HB)) Makes it sound like school - and yes, I can remember that far back. Just! ((I hope so, you're only a month younger than me, and I can remember that far back! - HB))

1. Avon is my favourite B7 character, so naturally I'd vote for Avon being my fave TV role, and B7 being my fave TV show. But you said I couldn't. So failing that, I'd vote for Hammer House 'Guardian of the Abyss.' Much preferable to Dombey & Son. The character was nastier for a start - and I prefer 'em that way.

The only time I've ever seen Paul Darrow on stage, was in 'Mr. Fothergill's Murder,' and believe me, trying to figure out a way to get to Wilmslow during a British Rail strike is murder in itself. I cleverly solved it though, with the aid of an extra ticket and a loving, if somewhat conned, father. I liked being chauffeured and he admitted to liking the play.

I wish Silver Sky would be repeated, or even filmed. I know you didn't list radio as a category, but its well worth a mention, as my well-worn tape will witness.

2. What was I doing when B7 first started? Presumably I was - er - watching something else. Must've been, cause I missed the first episode. Sorry. ((Not Coronation Street too - HB))

3. My favourite episode? Deathwatch, though I'm not too sure why. Possibly something to do with Deeta, perhaps. Well - I'm a strange girl. I don't remember him looking 'cute in leather' though, Susan. Avon - definitely, but Deeta? Not as far as I remember. Baco-foil - yes! Or maybe it was the idea and romanticism of a professional gun-fighter, defending the honour of his people and planet, that swayed me. Possibly Avon's smile on learning Del had no tedious scruples about shooting someone in the back. ((Wrong! He did, he waited until Vinnie turned around before he shot him three times. He didn't have tedious scruples about lying and cheating though - HB)) I really don't know, I can't be more specific. I just know its my favourite.

End of assignments. Do I get a gold star, teacher? ((Does she Rowena? - HB))

Well Pres., in your own words 'half the fun of belonging to a club is contributing and joining in.' You're right, and I've contributed, of sorts. So when does the other half of the fun start? Only joking - honest!

And lastly (sighs of relief?) ((Or should that be 'sighs of R'liph? - HB)) to Margaret. Thanks for 'Kerr Avon - The Recipe.' I just wish it was as easy to get my hands on the real thing. One day, maybe, I'll try the drink, but I think I'll skip the coca cola - the most likely ingredient to rot the paintwork. Could be I'll double up on the Guinness - after all we both know who does the advert for that. And I liked 'Flesh & Blood.'

Anyway, see y'all later,

A Message From Jeff Haughton:-

Can I go back on the Pen Pal List (even though no-one actually wrote to me) - Revised Entry (I think)

((Never mind Jeff, Rowena'll write to you - HB))

Jeff Haughton
7 Leicester Avenue
Droylsden
Manchester
M35 7QD

Fav. Character: Jenna, Gally, Avon
Vila, Blake

Fav. Episode: Gambit, Sarcophagus,
Star One, City

Interests

All forms of science fiction, conventions, cinema, rock music (and other types too), photography, tennis, most of the sciences, role playing games and others.

((Write to the poor lad, he'll get a complex! - HB))

DID YOU KNOW.....that Travis has now partnered with Arnold and lives in Bexhill-on-Sea running a timber merchants called 'Travis & Arnold.' (This piece of useless information was proudly presented by Jennie Smith.)

Blake's Seven Summed Up

PROJECT AVALON

Transmitted: Monday 27th February, 1978

Directed by: Michael Briant

CAST

Blake	- Gareth Thomas	Avon	- Paul Darrow
Gally	- Jan Chappell	Gan	- David Jackson
Vila	- Michael Keating	Jenna	- Sally Knyvette
Zen	- Peter Tuddenham	Avalon	- Julia Vidler
Chevnor	- David Ballie	Terloc	- John Rolfe
Travis	- Stephen Grief	Servalan	- Jacqueline Pearce
Scientist	- John Baker	Mutoid	- Glynis Barber
Guards	- David Sterne/Mark Holmes		

SERIES 1 - EPISODE 9

Opening title and music

The first scene shows a cold, mountainous area, thickly covered in snow. With the snow still heavily falling, two people, one of which is a mutcid, walk towards a cave entrance. The other is later revealed as Travis, who admits to being un-nerved by this particular planet.

A man is then seen scrambling through narrow rock passages, until he reaches a ledge, enabling him to overlook the arrival of Travis and the mutoid. He calls down to them.

"You're late," Travis announces by way of greeting.

"They would've missed me, had I come sooner," he answers, thus making it obvious he isn't here with his people's knowledge.

Passing on information about Avalon's whereabouts, he throws down a map to Travis, but Travis wants to know if Blake has made contact with Avalon. The traitor confirms he has, and that Avalon, in requesting transport to a safer planet, expects Blake's arrival in fifty hours. Travis then orders the man to go back to his people.

"It's working," Travis turns to the mutoid, "just as I predicted." Then as she turns away, he continues to himself. "This time we'll be ready for you, Blake."

On board Liberator, Blake requests of Zen a surface temperature, to be told it's cold - minus 120 degrees cold. And falling.

Avalon's signal has been located, and locked onto. Blake tells Jenna that as she's the only one ever to have seen Avalon, she'll have to accompany him to the surface, and to let Cally complete the ship's orbit.

Gan discovers five interceptors, just below the planets horizon. Blake tells him to track them, but Avon, as he enters the flight deck, tells him not to expect them to maintain the same orbit.

On summarising the available, relevant data, Avon has decided that they've not come at the best of times. The planet's northern hemisphere is now starting what the people call its 'long cold', which lasts the equivalent of $8\frac{1}{2}$ Earth years.

"Does it support any intelligent life?" Blake asks.

"Does the Liberator?" Avon answers. "There are humanoid creatures, called subterrions, they live in caves. Quite what that says for their intelligence, I really wouldn't know."

He then goes on to explain the Federation's reason, as he sees it, for being there. Apparently gem-stones, of outstanding purity and hardness, have been discovered. They are called Ice-Crystals, and are used by the Federation in their heavy duty lasers. They are mined by the subterrions, as a slave labour force, and are extremely valuable. Which is not why, Blake decides, that Avalon is there. She has started resistance on a dozen other Federation planets without the lure of crystals.

Avon smiles. "Another idealist - poor but honest. I shall

look forward to our meeting with eager anticipation."

"Is your anticipation eager enough," Blake asks, "to come down there with me?"

Avon turns to the scene on Liberator's screens. It's showing the cold, snowy surface.

"Not quite. I think I shall contain my enthusiasm, here in the warm."

Back in the caves, the mutoid stands on a ledge, watching over a guard. She readies herself, then jumps down onto his unsuspecting back. After a brief struggle, he is killed, and she transmits to other mutoids that are standing ready. They encircle the rebel camp, and Travis calls out of Avalon. Only after one life has been threatened, does Avalon reveal herself, asking, "Who betrayed us?"

Travis doesn't answer, but orders her to be taken away. He stops the mutoid from smashing the homing beacon, but indicating the rebel group, tells her to 'finish it'. All the remaining rebels are killed by the mutoid force, including the traitor, Terloc.

Back on the Liberator, Cally has established orbit, well enough for Jenna to admit she may have been taught too well. But Zen decides a minor correction is necessary. Vila tells them that the temperature has now reached minus 180 degrees. Then they are teleported down -

Into the cave where the rebels have been murdered. All but one. He managed to escape death with only a shoulder wound, and tells Blake that Avalon had been removed before all the shooting had started.

In the Federation base, Travis is informed of the imminent arrival of the Supreme Commander. He tells the mutoid to obtain someone from the detention block, to help with their experiments. And if no-one is available - to detain someone.

He goes over to where Avalon is lying, strapped on an examination table. She has been pronounced a good, healthy specimen by the scientist. Captured or not, Avalon still refuses to give in to Travis, even though she knows she'll be unable to fight the machines she is hooked up to.

Travis begins to explain 'Project Avalon', as its been named, and says that just by being there, she has started a chain of predetermined events. Even her capture had been a carefully planned strategy, in his effort to capture Blake and his crew, and his undamaged ship. It would seem the Federation is anxious to get hold of Liberator, and Travis is determined to give it to them.

Jenna and Blake have managed to make Chevnor's wound somewhat more bearable, and try to find a way into the Federation complex. Although he helped to build the outer wall, Chevnor has no knowledge of the inside, and knows of no way in, except possibly through a regeneration plant.

For this, Vila's skill is required, and Blake orders him to teleport down. He does so, complaining all the way, and nearly boiling alive in his thermal suit. He says he prefers boiling to freezing. While Vila is being introduced to Chevnor, and told of Avalon's capture, Gan tells Blake that another ship has come into the planet's vicinity.

Meanwhile, Travis is watching on screen the scientists at work. A man is brought for his approval, and the Supreme Commander Servalan arrives. Two attempts have been made on her life, and she blames Blake for both. She is also critical of the way Travis has handled the Blake affair. She tells him that she has been under considerable pressure to have him replaced. Travis is certain that Project Avalon will silence the critics, and Servalan gives him her unofficial support. The experiment goes ahead. A sphere is crushed, and within 23 seconds the man from the detention block has turned into a green blob. It takes only a few seconds for the area to be neutralised, then all that can be seen is the skeletal like remains of the man. Travis seems quite pleased with the results.

On the Liberator, the remaining crew are beginning to have trouble with the interceptors now approaching. Unable to contact Blake, Avon decides to run, he is unwilling to risk a fight. Cally is worried that Blake won't be able to contact them. As Avon points out, if they stay and lose, there will be nothing left to contact. They go.

Vila is under pressure, from Blake and a passing security robot, to open a door that will lead into the complex. He manages it, just in time. Once inside they go in search of Avalon, who has been placed in a cell after the completion of a successful operation. The guards have been put on alert, as Travis expects the arrival of Blake.

By this time, the Liberator has lost the interceptors, and has turned and begun its return to the planet, but Zen informs them that it will take 37.01 minutes to complete the action. As Gan says, a long time to hold on, if you're in trouble.

Which is precisely what Blake is in. After finding Avalon, they have been discovered. Amidst Federation fire, they are unable to contact the ship, and are forced to return the way they came in. Both Blake and Avalon are hit by Federation fire, but manage to carry on. In danger of being discovered by the security robot, Blake desperately calls for teleport - just as the Liberator reaches its destiny.

Travis seems unworried by the escape, a track has been placed on the ship, and he is confident it will all be over within a matter of hours.

Despite being hit in the leg, Avalon is fine. Chevnor seems dubious, and Blake - after going over their escape - is worried that it was planned. He concludes that Chevnor has been placed by the Feds., but suspicion falls on Avalon, when he is found beaten and dying.

The Avalon on board is in fact an android, and is carrying a sphere, identical to the one used in the earlier experiment. It contains a mutation of a plague virus.

Avon de-programmes the android, and scrambles it's 'brain'. They then return to the planet - the real Avalon still has to be rescued.

Blake teleports to the labs with the android, and demands to see Travis and Avalon.

After negotiating a deal, Blake and the real Avalon return to Liberator, leaving the plague sphere in the hand of the android. Travis catches the sphere as it is dropped, thus saving the life of Servalan, and in appreciation of this fact, she relieves him of his command. Travis vows to destroy Blake, even if it takes all of his life. Pursuit ships are launched.

End titles and Music.

(This article was brought to you by Jennifer Smith, and if she really wants to do the next B7 Summed Up I really won't protest, coz she's so good at it - creep creep! - HB))

Rebel With A Cause

Waiting Alone.

Death will comesoon, I know. Waiting alone to die. I wanted to be a hero, to save the people of my world, instead I'll be a dead hero and my people will still be oppressed.

Blake's ideals were mine. We worked well together for a while, saved lots of lives and took many more in the form of Federation troopers. We talked of innocent civilians, but as I lie here now, I wonder if we'd misjudged the ordinary soldier. Was he really aware of what his orders entailed or did he really believe his superiors were working towards a better life for us all?

Visions growing dim now and I can see figures in the distance. Faces of old friends long gone, smile at me as they reach out to take my hand. I feel peaceful now, all questions forgotten, all answers received. Maybe I won't be alone for too long.

Rebel Voice

((I may never forgive Jeff for this next story))

Thanks Jeff - your information on writing stories gave me plenty of new ideas. Here's the result.....

Adventures Of The Abnormal Kind

by Clare Nicholson.

The crew of the Liberator were just finishing their

Wimpy lunch when Zen notified them of a distress call that he was receiving.

"Oh no! I've not finished my lunch yet," said Blake.

"Errrrr!" squealed Cally, as her hamburger slipped out of it's bun and onto the table.

"Look at that mess," moaned Jenna, pointing at the hamburger.

Avon ignored this distraction and ordered: "Put it on the main screen, Zen."

Blake cringed. "You can't put a message on the screen!"

Avon considered. "Good point - audio Zen."

"Confirmed."

The crew stopped eating and listened to the message.

"This is space cruiser Shearfeld, we need assistance. We're orbiting Tealen and are concerned about our monitored readings of the planet! We suspect it will blow up in ten minutes."

"Interesting," said Avon. "How can we help?"

Blake leapt to his feet, spraying chips all over the seats. "Who cares - lets go!"

"Orac," ordered Avon, "we need to know the exact location of the spaceship Shearfeld."

Orac made an odd noise, climbed down off the tropical fish tank and said: "I'm just chatting to myself in a parallel universe. I do not wish to be distrubed!"

"Zen, do you have the co-ordinates?"

"Confirmed!"

"Good," said Avon, "lets go."

Vila looked into his strawberry milkshake and said:

"I'll just have enough time to finish you off before we get there!"

Travis looked at Servalan through his one good eye.

"He's gone for the distress call," he said.

Servalan gave Travis a quick twirl, displaying her new elegant dress. "I never thought he wouldn't!" she replied.

Servalan peered at the planet on the visual display unit. She waved her hand around absently saying: "This planet, is it totally uninhabited?"

Travis grinned. "Only by some strange creatures called octoplataducousii - the universe would be better off without them anyway, they're just carnivorous ducks really."

Servalan put her hands on her hips and sighed. They were all set to test the new Federation weapon - the hydroanticlopationary-intergalactical modulation pulser.

"Let's test our new weapon then Travis," Servalan smiled.

"Not the hydroanticlopationary-intergalactical modulation pulser?" said Travis, purely because he liked saying it.

"Yes, that."

Travis punched a security code into the computer keyboard and watched. Suddenly the planetary activity of Tealen increased to the peak of stress and the whole planet heaved outwards with a gigantic explosion sending particles hurtling to every corner of the universe destined never to meet again.

Servalan sat in her wide leather chair and looked at Travis, who was smiling. He turned towards her and said:

"Project Burnout test report - complete success!"

"Excellent," replied Servalan.

The Liberator sped across the endless void of space with all the grace of the Liberator speeding across the endless void of space.

Jenna had just finished clearing up the chips that Blake had dropped, when Orac said: "Oh blast!"

"Orac!" said Cally, in surprise.

Avon looked at the transparent box and said: "What's happened, Orac?"

"I have been interrupted by a Federation report that Tealen has just been destroyed!" said Orac. "I was just getting to know myself too."

"Is it true?" called Blake from his position.

"Of course it's true, I never lie."

"About Tealen being blown up, I mean. Has it?"

Orac hummed for a while and replied. "Yes, actually Tealen is no longer where it should be. It's been scattered around the universe in lots of bits."

"Oh no," said Cally. "Does this mean the Shearfeld has been destroyed too?"

"Zen is the starship Shearfeld still intact in the area of Tealen's destruction?" asked Blake.

Zen's lights blinked and flashed. "Confirmed, however, scanning interprets that the spaceship has been damaged somewhat."

"Open communications to the Shearfeld," Blake ordered.

"Confirmed. Communications open."

Blake leaned close to his microphone. "Shearfeld, this is the Liberator, come in."

The reply was only a hiss and a strange quaking noise.

"Shearfeld, come in.....come in...."

Still no response was obtained.

"What do we do now?" asked Vila.

"We go and find them!"

A little later, Liberator arrived in transporter range of the Shearfeld.

"Avon, Cally, come with me," ordered Blake, as he stormed off towards the teleport room.

Vila and Jenna looked at each other but said nothing.

In the teleport room Avon and Blake kitted themselves up, while Cally set the co-ordinates.

"All ready!" said Cally.

"Good," said Blake.

"I could do with the toilet!" said Avon.

"They'll have one down there - you can use theirs."

"O.K.," agreed Avon.

"Don't drink so much coke in the future," said Cally.

She operated the controls and Avon and Blake faded to nothing. On the Shearfeld Avon and Blake split up. Avon went to the toilet and Blake went to find the crew.

Servalan and Travis reached the Shearfeld a little while after Liberator had arrived.

"They're here!" stated Travis.

"I can see that for myself, fool," snapped Servalan, who was wearing another new dress.

She switched on the intercom at her position and said to the crew of the Liberator. "Liberator - this is a trap! You will now surrender and give the ship over to the Federation -

namely me."

Jenna's voice replied. "You're forgetting your position Servalan. We have two ships here, Liberator and Shearfield, which are capable of outgunning and outrunning your Federation fighter."

Servalan laughed. "You fool! The Shearfield is unarmed and you know it! It's no use trying bluffs - the Shearfield is a Federation ship anyway."

"We will not surrender this ship to you Servalan," replied Jenna.

"You'll find you have no choice!"

Blake turned the corner at the end of another corridor and was stunned at the carnage that met his eyes. Bodies, ripped to the bone in pools of thick red-black blood and internal organs, were scattered around the room. Instruments and control panels were splattered with blood and guts. Blake backed out of the room again and leaned against the corridor wall. He'd seen some terrible things but this took the ticket. Avon rounded the corner and, seeing Blake's pale face, inquired what was wrong.

"Someone has turned this ship's crew into a gigantic blood and guts bath," he replied.

"Err!" Avon cringed. "Are you O.K.? The toilet's only back there!"

Blake gulped. "I'll be fine, I just wasn't prepared for that sight."

Avon took a peek in the room and suggested they go to the next room. Blake agreed, and the two men hurried past the room and down the corridor.

Rounding another bend, they were suddenly confronted with a second unexpected sight. Four ducks blocked the gangway, blood dripping from their beaks.

"My studs!" cried Avon. "Octoplataducousii - carnivorous ducks! We have to get out of here, NOW!"

The ducks suddenly flew at Avon and Blake, pecking and ripping at their clothes and skin.

"GET OUT!" yelled Avon. He pulled Blake back down the corridor, followed closely by the ducks quacking and squawking at the tops of their voices. As they ran, Blake called into his communicator bracelet. "Cally - get us out, NOW."

"Hang on - erm...I've lost the button!"

"Cally," yelled Avon, "Blake means NOW!"

The ducks were pecking at their heads when they felt themselves fade and reappear in the safety of the Liberator.

Avon and Blake ran straight off the teleport as though still running from the maniac birds.

"That was close," said Blake.

Cally looked serious. "Servalan has arrived - she wants the Liberator!"

"What's new?" asked Avon.

"Her dress."

Avon wisely ignored the last comment and followed Blake into the control room.

Servalan was talking to Jenna about the terms of surrender.

"Ah Blake!" said Servalan, seeing him appear on her screen. "I believe you are trapped!"

"You have the intelligence of a brick, Servalan," Blake yapped. "And anyone with that much intelligence does not

deserve to be a playboy with a space yacht - never mind Supreme Commander of the Federation."

Servalan laughed. "You do make me laugh - have my men on Shearfeld been giving you a hard time?"

"Men? You have no men left - only ducks Servalan!" snapped Blake. "We were just about to blow you up."

Blake gave Vila a Paddington hard stare.

"What?" asked Vila. "I've not done a thing."

"That's before you do - set main blasters onto Servalan's fighter."

Vila did so and waited for the command to fire.

Servalan stirred a little in her seat. "What are you doing?"

"Like I said," answered Blake, "blowing you up."

Travis leaned forward and hissed. "We'll blow you up first."

Servalan tried issuing orders to the Shearfeld, but received no reply. She pushed Travis' face out of the way, calling him a half-witted peanut brained shrimp, and ordered him to take their ship out.

"Now?" asked Vila.

"No, let them go - destroy the ducks instead."

Vila did and thoroughly enjoyed doing so.

Blake sat down in the nearest chair.

"Why didn't she stay and fight?" asked Cally, bemused.

"Don't be a fool, she couldn't do that. Her ship is no match for the Liberator, she knew as well as we did that Zen could have delivered a shot to intercept hers and destroy her ship within a microsecond of her firing," explained Avon.

Blake smiled. "Exactly, - we have the best ship in the universe! So, who's for another Wimpy?"

"Errr.....no!" Groaned the crew in unison.

THE END

((Aren't you glad you joined this club, we have such culture in our N/Ls. - HB))

.. .. .

A Fairytale

by Chela

"Once upon a time, there was harmony where there is now only discord, and all the people of these lands were happy. There was no violence on the streets, everybody was well-fed, and the people never got sick or angry with each other, and there was work for everybody that wanted it, but if they didn't want to work, then that was okay too, because the weather was always fine and they could go for picnics or spend days at the seaside. When it rained it was only enough to make sure that the flowers grew beautifully, and the air was fresh and clean and unpolluted, and there were lots of trees and green fields, and the people were glad to be alive, and smiled at each other, and filled the land with love. They didn't ever dream that their paradise would be spoiled, but then without warning, something terrible and horrific came along, and within minutes had smashed the people's dreams to smithereens, leaving them

desperate and without hope, and plunging the land into chaos..
..... something called 'BLAKE!.....

And now, only one thing can save them: the resurrection
of the legendary Holy Spirit, Kerr Avon, who will live amongst
them once more, uniting them in peace and harmony, so that they
can all live happily ever after....."

THE END

News Cast

Only one piece of news at the moment, the dates for 'Are You
Lonesome Tonight' starring Paul Darrow:

6th June	Playhouse	Edinburgh
13th June	Playhouse	Edinburgh
20th June	Marlowe	Canterbury
27th June	Empire	Liverpool
4th July	Royal	Bath
11th July	New	Cardiff
18th July	Apollo	Oxford
25th July	Palace	Manchester
1st August	Royal	Newcastle
7th August	Royal	Newcastle
15th August	?	?
22nd August	Hippodrome	Bristol
29th August	Hexagon	Reading
5th September	Royal	Nottingham
12th September	Grand	Wolverhampton
19th September	Royal	Brighton
26th September	Ashcroft	Croydon

That's all for now folks. If any of you get to see the play,
we'd love a review from you (yes, that is an order....please!)
Hope for more news, next time!

No REBELS EXPOSED this time due to lack of space. I apologise
to Rowena and Kevin who work so hard on this section and
thank them for their dedication.

SHOP SOILED

We have a few additions and a few deletions this time round
again, so read carefully in case you miss something.

ZINES

ZINE AID IS STILL AVAILABLE! We only have one copy of Zine
Aid I left, and we do not plan a reprint in the near future,
so get your cheque books out now! Nos II, III, and IV are
still fairly widely available. £2.00 + A4 flat envelope or
and 24p stamp, or £2.35 p&p inc. (Overseas members check
the flyers we have send you all in the past for prices. Those
within flyers please send 2 IRCs for details).

Available from the club address.

TALISMAN (ROS) A tale where lives from the past and present meet in a whirl wind of magic and mystery. £2.00 inc p&p (£3.50 IMO or \$5.00 US Bill). Available from club address.
STANDARD BY SEVEN - THE EARLY YEARS. A5 booklet, 48 pages, artwork by David Bowden. £3.00 inc p&p payable to Ann Bown. Available from: Miss A. O'Neill, 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Nr. Reading, Berks. RG7 3UY
FACE TO FACE (TAT) send SAE for full listing to: Susan Taylor, 141 Kingswell Road, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, Dorset. BN10 5DQ
RELATIVE ENCOUNTERS - Anthology zine of MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. stories etc. Issues 1 & 2 available, 100+ pages. £2.00 each UK (£10.00 overseas). SASE for full details of zines available to:- Jay Felton, 'Cloudbase', 54 St. Mary's Road, Leyton, LONDON. E10 5RB
STARHAWK PRESS (B7) Zines inc. the 'Rebel' series. SAE for full listings to: Elizabeth Everett, 71 Greenland Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN13 2RW
KNIGHT 2000 (KR) is just one zine available from: Ms. B. Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset. DT4 0TQ. SAE for full details.

CLUBS

T.A.T. (TAT) SAE to: Karen Rowland, 275 Ladyshot, Harlow, Essex. CM20 3EY (Recommended)
FREEDOM LEAGUE (V) More than just a fan club! For full details write to: The membership Secretary, Ms. J.A. Wrighton, 30 Borodin Close, Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, Hants. RG22 4EN (Recommended)
ROBIN HOOD BRIGADE (V) SAE for full details to: Ms. Fran Ward, 1 Lydford Flats, Peacemarsh, Gillingham, Dorset. SP8 4EY
FPS (B7) The Freedom Party Services, SAE to: David Metcalfe, 102 Higherhouse Close, Chadderton, Oldham, Lancs. OL9 8LF
MILBROOK (B7) SAE to: Yvette Clarke, 85 Brendon Green, Millbrook, Southampton. (Recommended)
AVON (B7) SAE to: Mrs. A. Bown, 37a Byfleet Ave, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hants.
NETWORK (UNCLE), A quarterly discussion/letterzine. SAE for more details: J. Felton, 'Cloudbase', 54 St. Mary's Road, Leyton, London.

CONVENTIONS

GENSIS II (ST) for further details: SAE to Tina Hewitt, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent. DA1 1ET (July, 1988)
SPACE CITY (B7) £28.00 for the whole weekend. SAE: Ms. L. Bingham, 16 Bannister Road, Burghfield Common, Reading, Berks. RG7 3LG (October, 1988)
FALCON aka 'The Search For Box' (Dr. Who/Star Cops) SAE: Falcon 3, 125 Roose Road, Burrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. LA13 0EE (July, 1988)
DESTINY 2 (B7) 2 IRCs for details to: Destiny, PO Box 1766, Bellaire, TX 77401, USA
ZEN CON II (B7) The 1988 Nat. Media SF con. 2 IRCs to PO Box 437, Camberwell, 3124, Australia.
TWILIGHT (Dr. Who/B7) SAE: Ms. J. Riddler, 48 Lensbury Way, Thamesmead, London. SE2 (October, 1988)

MISC ADS

IMAGINE REALITY Merchandise for many a show. For full list 9x6 SAE to Ms. L. Hepden, 85 Eastwick Row, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP2 4JQ

5-1 Chance 'Special Avon Raffle' (In Aid Of Charity). To be drawn at SPACE CITY - by Paul Darrow. Tickets 50p each or £2.00 for 5. Available from: Elizabeth Everett, 71 Greenland Road, Wrothing, West Sussex. BN13 2RW. Please mark top of envelope 'TSAR' also enc. SASE for return of ticket(s). (SAE & 2 IRCs overseas). Make cheques etc payable to Elizabeth Everett

NORTH WEST B.7. MEETINGS Anyone welcome to come along. We have a few things planned for B7's 10th anniversary year. Contact: Sue Christian, 14 The Carters, Copy Farm, Netherton, Merseyside. L30 7QW

Members Merch.

The following ads have been placed by members of the club. Those with stars against will not be repeated unless requested or an update given. Thank you.

- * The B.7.S & B.F.C. is non-profit making and is a FREE Fan Service. I usually despatch all orders within 12 hours. Please make all cheques/Postal Orders payable to Anthony King and post to: Anthony King, B.7.S & B.F.C., 30 Midlothian Street, Clayton, Manchester. M11 4EP. (Anthony offers all kinds of B7 merch. including tapes and memorabilia)

* Starburst mags nos 17, 18, 28, 32, 38 & 39 needed. p/copies of B7 pages accepted. Also Info/News Cuttings/Autographs etc on original cast - Blake, Jenna, Avon, Cally, Vila and Gan. Also,

Help needed: I have an idea/outline for a parallel story to series 3 & 4 involving Jenna and Blake, which eventually joins up with the final episode 'Blake.' If there is anyone out there who can help to pad out my idea and put it onto paper, I would be very pleased to hear from them. Please contact: Ms. Sheila Milton, 12 September Court, Orchard Waye, Uxbridge, Middx. UB10 0AG

The Way Of Wyrd - Brian Bates

Lyonesse - Jack Vance

Witch World - Andre Norton

The Riddle-Master Of Hed - Patricia McKillip

- The above books are paper-backs, as new, truly . A £1 each inc. postage - to Fan Aid. ((Thanks Rosemary - HB))

If you wish to purchase, write to Rosemary Woodhouse, Woodhouse, Main Street, Woolsthorpe-By-Belvoir, Grantham, Lincs. NG32 1LX

Ms. Lynda Harrild has a great deal to sell (far more than I can print in one zine), including tapes, books and zines. For a full list of what's available send an S.A.E to: Lynda Harrild, 127 Mill Street, Torrington, N. Devon. EX38 8AW



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